

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: European Commission Authorizes two GE Crops for Import

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies

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Report Highlights:

On February 22, 2022, the European Commission (EC) approved two genetically engineered (GE) crops (1 soybean and 1 oilseed rape) for food and animal feed. The two authorizations were published in the European Union's Official Journal on February 24, 2022, and they remain valid for 10 years.

General Information:

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF
AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

On February 22, 2022, the European Commission (EC) approved two genetically engineered (GE) crops (1 soybean and 1 oilseed rape) used for food and animal feed. These two crops have gone through a comprehensive and stringent authorization procedure, including a favorable scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The authorization and renewal decisions apply to food and feed for import and processing, but do not cover cultivation and are valid for 10 years. All products will be subject to the EU's strict labelling and traceability rules.

The two Commission Implementing Decisions for the authorizations were published in the [Official Journal of the European Union, L 059, 24 February 2023](#):

[Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2023/415 of 22 February 2023 renewing the authorisation for the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified soybean A5547-127 \(ACS-GMØØ6-4\) pursuant to Regulation \(EC\) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council \(notified under document C\(2023\) 1126\)](#)

[Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2023/416 of 22 February 2023 authorising the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of or produced from genetically modified oilseed rape MON 94100 \(MON-941ØØ-2\) pursuant to Regulation \(EC\) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council \(notified under document C\(2023\) 1135\)](#)

Authorization Process:

The two GE crops have gone through the EU's full authorization procedure, including a favorable scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), as set in Directive 2001/18/EC. After a positive evaluation by EFSA, the EC puts forward a proposal for the authorization of the events that must be voted at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF) for Genetically Modified Food and Feed and Environmental Risk by EU Member State (MS) representatives. A positive outcome in the PAFF Committee requires a qualified majority. Member States did not reach a qualified majority either in favor or against the GE crops at the Standing Committees and at the subsequent Appeal Committees thus the Commission has the legal duty to proceed with the authorizations.

Consideration and Outlook:

These two events were discussed during PAFF Committee meetings respectively on October 27, 2022 and December 14, 2022. The Appeal Committee meetings took place respectively on December 8, 2022 and January 24, 2023. This is the first group of GE approvals for export to the EU that the Commission has approved in 2023.

Attachments:

No Attachments.